

AMERICA'S MOMENTOUS "FOURTH"



JUDGED from any angle of opinion this year's July Fourth will be one of the most momentous in the history of the United States. Independence Day inevitably expresses patriotism, but patriotism has many meanings and many forms. A nation that agreed upon its patriotism would have agreed upon its life. Europe's conflict of blood, echoes loudly, and America's quadrennial conflict of political opinion has begun to rumble throughout the continent. The hour is one in which the individual sense of patriotism is called upon for a concrete definition. The new problems of the nation bring new problems to the individual which patriotism is required to meet unflinchingly. Thus July Fourth will not only mark a memory; it will signalize a climax. For each man, woman and child it will not only revive traditions but visualize a crisis, a crisis different from any crisis the country has ever known, and in many aspects greater than any it has yet endured. In one aspect all expressions of patriotism will agree—all will hope for the country's good. All must hope that varying paths may ultimately converge in the citadel of right, that the passions of opinion and the brutalities of conflict may ultimately make way for the triumph of enduring peace.